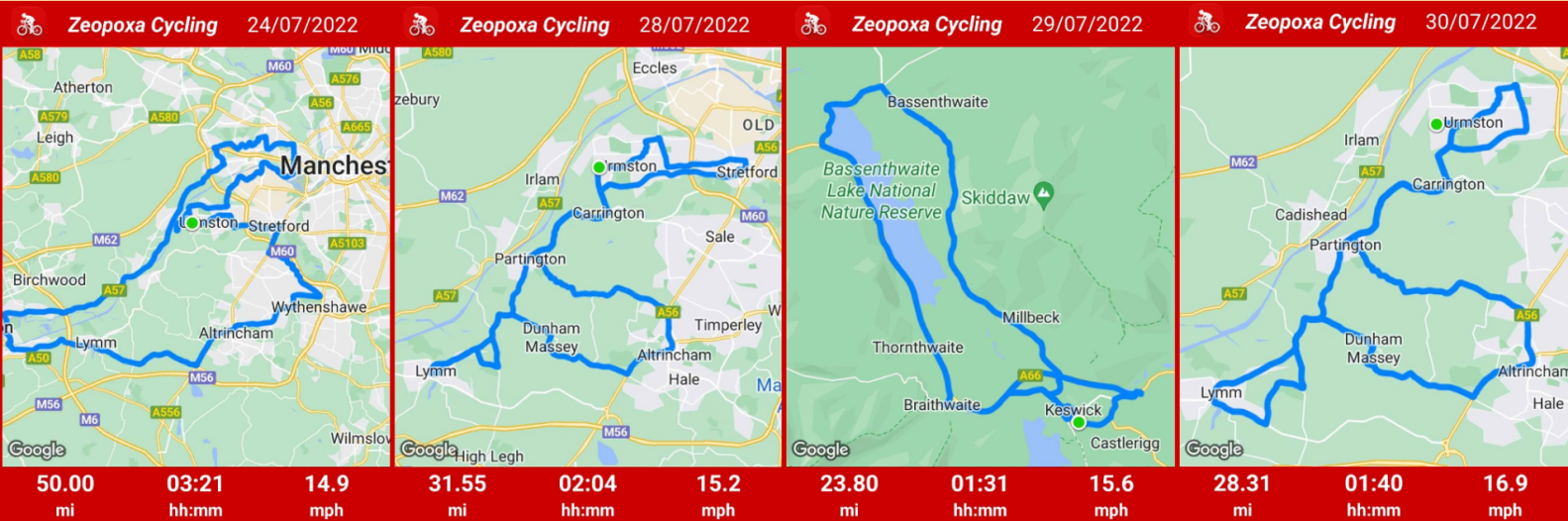


# Brooklands Church Newsletter – 31 July 2022



*"But in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" – 1 Peter 3:15*

The characteristic of gentleness runs as a thread throughout the Scripture as both a feature of who God is and who we should be as God's people (The people of God, filled by the Spirit of God, displaying the character of God!). And yet there's also mentions of God's wrath, judgement and even stories of violence and war. How do we reconcile such things?

The tricky task of wrestling with all of this falls to Tim Geddes, who will be preaching this week. We are so grateful for Tim, who in the last year has served us faithfully in running our tech desk each Sunday. Tim is also a locally licenced minister with us and is pursuing his calling alongside his studies at NTC. We'll present him with his licence renewal this week.

Speaking of our tech desk, I'll be making use of our online worship this week as I'm away leading the Church of the Nazarene district holiday for the churches in Scotland – I look forward to engaging in worship with you in this way. Lucy will be leading in my absence. We are deeply grateful for her, too!

Lauren commences her role as our new associate pastor with us this coming week. Be in prayer for her. Our vision for 'team' ministry is really coming together! We'll mark her stepping in to this role as part of our worship next week.

We want to congratulate Sean Harland as he completed his mammoth cycle fundraiser this week. Thank you to everyone who has given and it looks like we will be in a position to purchase a new drum kit for the praise band. You can still donate to this if you haven't already, see details below.

Our project to provide packed lunches for school children also commences this week. We will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays for this (Bideford Community centre will run Monday, Tuesday and Fridays). Please speak to Charmaine Hamnett if you want to contribute to this important ministry.

There is still much to be praying for as a church – we continue to hold the Harland and Okechukwu families in prayer following the tragic deaths of Ian and Michael Jnr. See also below our other ongoing prayer needs.

Blessings,

Mick



## Well done Sean!

This week, Sean completed his 400 mile bike marathon to raise funds for a new church drum kit. That's a tremendous effort, so well done Sean, and thanks.

The picture above shows just a few of Sean's bike rides, and altogether, he completed 404 miles.

You can still give by putting something into the church offering. Please put any further gifts in an envelope and write "Drum Kit" on the envelope.

[Or you can click this link to the Just Giving page.](#)

# CHURCH DIARY

Date	Event
Sunday 31 July 2022	Sunday Worship, 10:30 am. Tim Geddes is speaking
Wednesday 3 August 2022	Toddle-in finished for summer holidays
Wednesday 3 August 2022	Church Zoom Prayer Meeting, 10:30 am
Wednesday 3 August 2022	FoodCycle free community meal 5:00 pm
Thursday 4 August 2022	Community Cafe and Food Pantry, 11am to 2pm
Thursday 4 August 2022	Bible study with Lucy, 2:00 pm at church
Sunday 7 August 2022	Sunday Worship, 10:30 am

# READINGS AND PRAYERS

DATE	READING	PRAY FOR
Mon 1 August	Num 23:1-12	Adriana, Philip, David, Joseph, Pete and Rebecca Richmond
Tue 2 August	Num 23:13-30	Mark, Rebecca, Charlie and Laney Rotheram
Wed 3 August	Num 24	Nick, Ada and Joshua Savu and family
Thu 4 August	Num 25	Dean, Simona and Mia Stanfield
Fri 5 August	Num 26:1-19	Karl and Ingrid Stanfield and family
Sat 6 August	Num 26:20-44	Terry and Sheila Strong and family
Sun 7 August	Num 26:45-65	Gert, Melissa and Jessica Schwartz and family

# CHURCH PRAYER LIST

- Pray for Sharron Harland and the family following the sudden and tragic death of her son, Ian.
- Pray for Michael Okechukwu and family following the death of his son Michael Jnr. He was only 26 years old.
- Pray for John and Anne Beattie. John is stable but very tired physically, mentally and spiritually. Anne also needs a lot of prayer as she walks this journey. John's son and daughter are visiting from Pembrokeshire this week.
- We pray for Christine Clarke and her family following the loss of her niece, Hannah.
- Jon Fisher has been suffering from excessive tiredness recently. The doctors are monitoring his blood levels. Keep him in your prayers.
- We give thanks that Val's son-in-law Alan Roberts has finished chemotherapy.
- Pray for Leah Bolton as she nears the end of her pregnancy term. We anticipate the arrival of baby Bolton with the whole family.
- Pray for Tom Bolton as he prepares to leave for London at the end of the summer to begin a new job teaching. Pray particularly for accommodation to be found.
- Pray for Lauren McGillivray as she prepares to start as our new Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families this week.
- Continue to pray for Norma Whyte who enters her 19th week in hospital following a complicated leg break. Norma's third surgery on her leg is expected to take place this week.
- Pray for Sue Cooley, who also had a knee replacement operation cancelled. This is being rescheduled.
- Pray for Ron, the brother of Sylvia Findlay who is undergoing treatment for his kidneys. He is being considered for dialysis but Sylvia's prayer is that such healing would take place that he would not need this.
- Pray for Sue Clark, a neighbour to the church. Sue has flown to Los Angeles to be with her sister, Maria, who has entered end of life care following a battle with cancer.
- Pray for Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle as he recovers from a cataract operations. He hopes to be back with us soon.
- Pray for those struggling with the Cost of Living Crisis. We pray that our Food Pantry will be a real support for those in need in our area.
- Continue to remember Stephen Lovett in your prayers.
- Pray for our local councillors - Sue Cooley, Glynn Evans and Julia Baker Smith. Pray also for our MP, Mike Kane.
- Pray for continued healing for Isobel Cave, Viv Best, Philomena Evans.
- Give thanks for answered prayer as Marie Vickers' health has improved. Marie is related to David and Chris Hoolihan by marriage.
- Pray for the continued work of the Church here in the community of Brooklands, as new faces continue to engage with us in a number of ways.

Please send your prayer requests to Mick, Lucy or Mark, and we will add them to the weekly prayer list.

## ***Fruits of the Spirit: Gentleness***

### ***Lamentations 1:1-14***

1 How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

2 Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are on her cheeks. Among all her lovers there is no one to comfort her. All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

3 After affliction and harsh labour, Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

4 The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, her young women grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.

5 Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

6 All the splendour has departed from Daughter Zion. Her princes are like deer that find no pasture; in weakness they have fled before the pursuer.

7 In the days of her affliction and wandering Jerusalem remembers all the treasures that were hers in days of old. When her people fell into enemy hands, there was no one to help her. Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction.

8 Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean. All who honoured her despise her, for they have all seen her naked; she herself groans and turns away.

9 Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future. Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her. 'Look, Lord, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed.'

10 The enemy laid hands on all her treasures; she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary - those you had forbidden to enter your assembly.

11 All her people groan as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive. 'Look, Lord, and consider, for I am despised.'

12 'Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?

13 'From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones. He spread a net for my feet and turned me back. He made me desolate, faint all the day long.

14 'My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together. They have been hung on my neck, and the Lord has sapped my strength. He has given me into the hands of those I cannot withstand.

### ***Matthew 11:28-30***

28 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'